

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

Radio Communications

To make sure that EMS units maintain radio contact with the Communications Center and other EMS units this policy explains the operations of communications within the EMS.

- In order to comply with the National Incident Management System, all radio communications will be conducted in plain English. The use of 10 codes, regional codes, or any other commonly used code is prohibited.
- It is the responsibility of each EMS crew to maintain radio contact with the communications center and other crews.
- Regular units are issued two walkies and each employee will carry one. It is the responsibility of the employee to maintain possession of his/her walkie at all times while on duty. For accountability purposes, the on-coming employees will sign the daily check off sheet in the line provided and write in the ID of the radio that they are responsible for (found on the inside back of the radio after taking the battery off); they will also note who they received the radio from in the space provided.
- "CCEMS Primary" is the EMS dispatch channel on VHF and "CCEMS 1" is the primary dispatch channel on VIPER. These channels are patched together so that dispatch traffic is heard on both frequency bands. CCEMS Primary and CCEMS 1 are to be used exclusively for radio traffic related to dispatching and running calls.
 - "EMS 2" is reserved for future use and units may not transmit on this channel.
EXCEPTION: Until this CCEMS 2 (VIPER) is fully operational as a secondary dispatch channel, Specialty Services may use this channel for any of their operations that they deem necessary.
 - "CCEMS Operations" is for operational radio traffic not related to calls or dispatch information.
 - "CCEMS Admin" is used for administrative and supervisory radio traffic.
- Mobile and portable radios must be set to "CCEMS Primary" on VHF radios and "CCEMS 1" on VIPER radios. Other channels may be set to scan in the mobile radios at the crew's discretion. Any alteration of the mobile scan list should be reset to the minimum list at the end of the shift and is the responsibility of the person making the alteration.
- When EMS crews must enter areas known to have no or poor radio reception, C-MED must be notified. When back in radio range, the crew must again notify C-MED of their status.
- Only radios issued by the Catawba County EMS may be carried while on duty.
- Calls and scenes that may generate excess radio traffic will be handled by the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services SOG entitled Tactical Radio Frequencies.